

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added, cancelled or amended.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-6 and 8 remain pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 3 and 8 are allowed.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 2, 4, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0016504 to Dam et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/007033 to Doi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,083 to Martin et al. This rejection is traversed for the reasons given below.

The filing of this application is February 27, 2004, which is **prior to** the publication date (March 31, 2005) and the filing date (September 28, 2004) of Doi. **Accordingly, Doi is not prior art with respect to this application.**

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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